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THE OBSERVATOR.

further Diſcourſe on the Cevennois. *Of News from* Lisbon. *The Houſe of Lords Repreſentation of the Affair of the Victualing-Office to Her Majeſty.*

From **Wednesday** April the 12th, to **Saturday** April the 15th, 1704.

untry-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, I would deſire you to let us have ſome more Diſcourſe of *Cevennois*; they are a parcel of *Honeſt Fellows*, nd thoſe that Beſpatter and Belye them a par- l of *Canary Birds*; and I am ſure, if my Queen id but know what Honeſt Fellows they are, ſhe ould ſoon ſend them Succours.

Obſ. Thoſe Brave People, when they firſt took Arms, were Repreſented by the *High-Church-* to be an Inconſiderable Number of Men, not orthy of either our Notice or Aſſiſtance; but I ope they will not continue to make that an Ob- tion, ſince it has been the Buſineſs of a Mar- al of *France*, with Diſciplin'd Forces, to Op- ſe them, who have met with ſuch a Vigorous iſtance from them, that they have been often efeated; the *Cevennois* have Slain conſiderable umbers of their Forces; have Confin'd the Mar- al in the Walled Towns, while they have Ra- ged the Plains, and have taken Poſſeſſion of the en Country, by which means great Numbers the *French* Kings Forces have been withdrawn om *Savoy*, with which he ſo much Threatened at Country.

If their Conduct and Courage, if their Reſolu- on and Bravery, in Defending their Country, long without any Aſſiſtance, be not an Argu- ent for the Confederates to give them Counte- ance, ſurely, the Advantage they have done the *Common Cauſe*, by withdrawing the *French* orces from *Savoy*, and giving that Duke Room enter into the *Confederacy*, ſeems to Challenge ſuitable Return of Kindneſs from the *Confede- ates*.

The Objected Difficulties ſeem now to be whol- removed; the War in *Savoy* has opened a Paſ- ge for their Relief; the Harbours of that Dukes ountry are open to our Shipping; and we need ot now fear any more Accounts being ſent of ur Intentions or Preparations to Aſſiſt them, at the firſt Motions of this Affair in *England*, hen the Country of *France*, on that ſide, was ut into a Poſture of Defence and Oppoſition, hich render'd an Enterprize of that Nature al- gether Impracticable.

We muſt needs think that the Expectation help from the *Confederacy* has been raiſed in hoſe People ſince the Duke of *Savoys* coming in- o it; and the Ways and Means of ſuch Help re now Viſible, the Reaſons of ſuch Help are pparent, and the Neglect of it, ſuch a Secreſy s Terminates in a Wonder.

I ſhall not look far from Home into the Rea- ons Objected by the *Confederates* Abroad; but urely the Reaſon of our *High-Flyers* in *England* re Vain and Trivial, and we have great Cauſe o ſuſpect what Intereſt thoſe People would pro- ote, who are againſt Aſſiſting the *Cevennois*.

The *Cevennois* may indeed fix their Eyes more rmly on *England*, than on other Powers. We ad not now been *Engliſhmen* poſſeſs'd of our *Na- tive Rights*, but by the Defence of them: Our Queen had never Sway'd the Scepters of theſe Realms, but by the Defence of the Peoples Liberties; and that too by the Aſſiſtance of *Proteſtant* Neighbours? Our Cauſe not long ago was the ſame with theirs: We made uſe of the like Aſſiſtance they now expect; and the only way to give us a true View of their Condition, is to remember our own Low and Helpleſs State not many Years ago.

By Aſſiſting thoſe People we may in ſome meaſure wipe off the Reproach brought upon us in the Affair of *Rochell*, the Treachery in which, no Age or Hiſtory can Parallell; 'tis a Subject too large for me to enter upon; but who ever Reads the Memoirs of the Duke of *Rhoan*, will be throly ſatisfy'd in that Point; by this means alſo we may divert thoſe Particular and Signal Judgments of God which befell ſome that were concerned in that Treachery; and who knows but that the Judgements which then were Particular, may now become National; for the *Engliſh* Nation is more nearly concern'd in this Affair, than many others of *Europe*, it being but lately delivered from *Popery* and *Slavery*, by the help of our Proteſtant Neighbours. I have more to ſay on this Subject, which you ſhall hear at another time; at preſent let us have what News thou haſt pick'd up at *London*.

Country-m. Fools and Knaves have Fortune: That's no News you'll ſay. The Letters from *Liſbon* ſay, That the two Young Pretenders to the Crown of *Spain* will Fight in a little time; and I ſay I ſhall be very glad of it, for I am almoſt Famiſh'd for want of a Fighting Story. Sir *George Rook* is gone a Cruzing, and they ſay he'll Maul *Jack Frenchman* when he comes at him; of which I ſhall be alſo extreamly glad. This is the News in *Epitome*: I made haſte, becauſe I Long to hear what our Noble Patriots, the *Houſe of Peers*, have done about the Complaint againſt the *Victualing*; for which you have ſo long Suffered.

Obſ. They have Acted like themſelves, like a Body of Noble Patriots, who are Senſible of the Decay, and willing to Repair the ſhatter'd Walls of our Iſland. I'll read you their Lordſhips Repreſentation of that Affair to Her Majeſty.

Die Mercurii, 29 Martii, 1704.

WE Your Majeſties Moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, moſt humbly Lay before Your Majeſty, That we have taken into Conſideration a Complaint made by Charles Hoar, Richard Hoar, *and* James Hoar, *of great Abuſes in the Victualling Your Majeſties Navy, which if not performed with the Strickeſt Care and Honeſty, muſt be of the moſt Miſchievous Conſequence to the Lives of many Thouſands of the Seamen of this Kingdom. We Entered into a full and particular Examination of the ſaid Complaint, as followeth:*

And it appeared to us, That a Petition was Preſented by Charles Hoar *to the Council of His Royal Highneſs,*

neſs, Prince George *of* Denmark, *Lord High-Admiral of* England, *on the Third of* February, 17$0\frac{2}{3}$. *Complaining of great Abuſes and Frauds committed in the Victualling of Her Majeſties Navy, and Repreſenting, That without a ſpeedy and ſtrict Inſpection, it would be impoſſible to Detect thoſe Abuſes, or Prevent the Dangerous Effects thereof, and therefore Praying that His Royal Highneſs will Pleaſe to Order an immediate Survey of the Proviſions for the Fleet, to be made by proper and fitting Perſons, who have no Dependance on the Navy or Victualling-Office, and make Report to His Royal Highneſs of the State of the Victualling, and that the Petitioner may have His Royal Highneſſes Protection for His Witneſſes till Heard, a Liſt of whoſe Names he is ready to Deliver, they being daily Threatned to be Preſt into the Service, in Order to Stifle this Complaint.*

Upon the Eighth of February *ſeveral of* Mr. Hoar's *Witneſſes, on his Petition, were Protected by the Prince from being Preſſed.*

Upon which Petition, His Royal Highneſs gave an Order on the Ninth of February, 17$0\frac{2}{3}$. *to Sir* Cloudeſley Shovel, *and Sir* Richard Haddock, *Requiring them forthwith to Survey the Proviſions Complain'd of, in which they ſhould be Attended by* Mr. Hoar, *or others he ſhould bring: His Royal Highneſs alſo gave an Order to the Lord Marqueſs of* Carmarthen, *on the Eleventh of* February *following, to Aſſiſt Sir* Cloudeſley Shovel, *and Sir* Richard Haddock, *in taking the aforeſaid Survey.*

That the Prince's Council was ſenſible of the Neceſſity of an immediate Survey, appears not only from the Tenor of the Prince's Order, but alſo by their Ordering their Solicitor to Attend a Juſtice of the Peace in taking the Affidavits of Twenty Evidences for the Queen, of which Juſtice Rider *Swore and Examined Seven, on the Tenth and Eleventh of* February, 17$0\frac{2}{3}$.

And yet that the Prince's Council knew this Order was not put in Execution, is Evident, by ſeveral Letters that paſs'd between Mr. Hoar *and Mr.* Burchet, *Secretary to the Admiralty, Mr.* Hoar *inſiſting, That the Perſons he had deſired to be preſent would not Attend at the Survey, unleſs they were impowered by the Admiralty, and Mr.* Burchet *acquainting Mr.* Hoar, *that ſuch a Power was not judged either reaſonable or proper to be granted.*

But on the 26th of February *following, His Royal Highneſs gave another more Expreſs and Peremptory Order to Sir* Cloudeſley Shovell *and Sir* Richard Haddock, *requiring them to Survey the Proviſions Complain'd of within Four Days, tho' Mr.* Hoar, *or any other, ſhould not Attend them.*

Which Order likewiſe the Prince's Council knew was not Executed, as appears by a New Order of the 19th of April *following, Directed to the Navy-Board, requiring them to Report, which of the Members of* Trinity-Houſe *were fitteſt to be Imployed in Conjunction with my Lord* Carmarthen, *and others, to Survey the Proviſions.*

And on the 23d of April *there was another Order directed to the Lord* Carmarthen, *&c. to take a ſtrict Survey of the Proviſions Complain'd of, which Order the Prince's Council knew alſo was not Executed.*

For on the 30th of the ſame April *they granted the laſt and moſt Peremptory Order to the Lord* Carmarthen, *and others, requiring them to take a ſtrict Survey of the Proviſions Complain'd of, without Mr.* Hoar, *if he ſtill ſhould refuſe to attend the ſame, upon which a Survey was accordingly taken in a few Days after.*

So that from the Date of the firſt Order, to the Date of the laſt and Peremptory Order, there was near three Months.

Upon the whole, We are of Opinion, That the Prince's Council, in not commanding an immediate ſtrict Survey of Her Majeſties Proviſions for the Fleet upon ſuch a Complaint, according to His Royal Highneſſes Order of the 9th of February, 17$0\frac{2}{3}$. *ſuffering a known Delay thereof till the 30th of* April *following, gave not only too great Diſcouragement to a Complaint of that Nature and Conſequence, but alſo near Three Months Opportunity, for removing what Tainted and Stinking Proviſions there might be then in the Store-houſes, or ſo changing the State thereof, that the Frauds and Abuſes complained of, might thereby very eaſily be covered.*

Upon this whole Matter, We humbly lay before Your Majeſty, That the due Performance of this Service is of that Conſequence, that the Diſcovery of any Miſcarriages in the Management of it ought by all means to be Incouraged: And we are humbly of Opinion that the Pains and Charge that the ſaid Charles Richard *and* James Hoar, *were at in Diſcovering the ſaid Abuſes, and deſiring a Survey to be taken to juſtifie their Complaints, was ſuch a Service to the Publick, as deſerves a Reward and Recompence ſuitable to the Charge and Trouble they have been at, and Service they have done the Publick.*

Country-m. God Bleſs their Lordſhips, ma*England* never want ſuch a Houſe of Peers.

Obſ. Their Lordſhips Seaſonable and Juſt Enquiries into the State of the Navy, is a thing of ſuch great *Conſequence* to the *Welfare* of the *Realm*, that the People of *England* can never pay too great Reſpect to that Noble Body: Few Men are ſenſible of the great Service done the Nation and the Fr People of *England*, by the Houſe of Lords in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament; and therefore I ſha Diſcourſe more largely on this Subject hereafte

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